

ARTICLES

TO BE

ENQUIRED of

AND

ANSWERED unto

BY THE

Church-Wardens and Side-Men,

IN THE

PRIMARY VISITATION

OF THE

Right Reverend Father in God,

NICOLAS Lord Bishop of *Chester*.

Sturford
M. DC. XCI

Chester, Printed in the Year, M DC XCI.



The Oath to be administred to the Church-wardens and Side-men of each Parish.

YOU shall Swear truly and faithfully to execute the Office of Church-wardens and Side-men within your Parish, and shall diligently enquire, and make true Presentment of such Things and Persons, as you know to be presentable, by the Ecclesiastical Laws of this Realm.

So help you God.



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TIT. I.

*Concerning Churches, and Chappels, with the things thereunto
belonging.*

I. **I**S your Parish-Church or Chappel, in good Can. 85.
and sufficient repair, both for the Roof, Win-
dows, Floor and Seats; and are all things
therein kept in such decent sort as becometh
the House of God?

II. Is there a Font of Stone in your Church or Can. 81.
Chappel, standing in the ancient usual place? Doth
your Minister Baptize publickly in the Font? Is Can. 82.
there a decent Communion-Table in your Chancel,
covered in time of Divine Service with a decent Rubrick
Carpet; and when the Lord's Supper is administer- before y
ed, with a fair white Linnen Cloath? Have you a Commu-
A 2 decent nion.

Rubr.be- decent Bason to receive the Alms for the Poor? fore the And have you a Chalice or Communion-Cup, with Prayer a Cover; and one or more Flaggons?

for the III. Have you a convenient Seat or Pew, where- whole in to read Divine Service; a comly and decent Pul- state of pit set in a convenient place; a large Bible of the last Christ's Translation; a Book of Common-prayer lately Church. published, Anno 1662. the Book of Homilies set Can. 82. forth by Authority; a Printed Table of the Degrees 83. wherein Marriages are prohibited; a Book of Ca- 80. nons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical, and a decent 99. Surplice?

58. IV. Have you a Register Book in Parchment, Can. 70. for all who are Christened, Married, or Buried in your Parish? And is the same kept in all points ac- cording to the Canon in that behalf? And is the Transcript thereof yearly; within one month next after the 25th of March, brought into the Bishop's Registry?

Can. 52. V. Have you a Paper Book, in which the names of Strangers who preach in your Church or Chap- pel are set down? And another Book for the Church- 70. wardens Accounts? As also a Chest with three Locks and Keys where'n to keep the said Books, and the 84. fore-mentioned Furniture? And have you a Chest with three Keys for Alms?

T I T. II.

*Concerning the Church-yard, Houses, Glebes, and Tithes
belonging to the Church.*

Can. 85. I. **I**s your Church-yard sufficiently fenced, and de- cently kept? Hath any person encroached upon the same, or made any dooz into it? And how long since?

II. Is the House of your Parson, Vicar or Curate, and the Out-houses in good repair? Have any of them been defaced or pulled down without Licence? Have there been any encroachments made upon the same? Or any of the Ancient marks or bounds removed or changed? And by whom? III.

III. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Can. 87.
 Glebe-lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements or Cot-
 tages belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage?
 As also a note of such Pensions, Rate-Tithes, & Por-
 tions of Tithes, or other yearly profits (either with-
 in or without your Parish) as belong thereunto?
 Have any of the same been with-held from your Mi-
 nister? And by whom as you know, or have heard?
 And is your Terrier laid up in the Bishops Regi-
 stry?

T I T. III.

Concerning Ministers.

I. **I**S your Minister Vicar or Curate Episcopally Act of
 Ordained, and duly qualified according to the Unifor-
 Laws of this Realm? Hath your Minister been le- mity.
 gally inducted? Hath he read the 39 Articles within Can. 48.
 two Months after his Induction upon some Sun-
 day or Holy-day in the time of Divine Service, and Stat. 13.
 declared his Assent thereto? Is he defamed, or sus- Eliz. c.
 pected to have obtained either his Benefice or Or- 12.
 ders by any Simoniackal Compact?

II. Hath your Minister any other Ecclesiastical Can. 45.
 Benefice? Is he constantly resident among you, and 47.
 doth he preach every Lords day, having no lawful Can An.
 impediment? How long in one year hath he been 1571.
 absent from his Cure?

III. Hath your Minister a Curate to assist him?
 Is the said Curate a man of able parts, of a pious
 and discreet Conversation and Conformable to the Can. 47.
 Laws of the Church of England? Doth he serve any 48.
 other Cure besides? What yearly Stipend doth
 your Minister allow him?

IV. Doth your Person, Vicar or Curate, in read- Act of
 ing the Morning and Evening Service, Administra- Unifor-
 tion of the Holy Sacraments, and other Religious mity.
 Offices, use & forms prescrib'd in & book of Common
 prayer, & all such Rites and Ceremonies as are ap-
 pointed

in that Book, so far as you have observed? Doth
 Can. 58. he wear the Surplice, together with such other Habit as is suitable to his Degree?

Rubr. after Communion. V. Doth your Minister celebrate the Lord's Supper so often in every Year, that every Parishioner may receive thrice at least? And doth he keep back
 Can. 21. those who (according to the Rubrick and Canons) ought not to be admitted, giving an Account of them to the Bishop? And doth he on the Sunday
 Rubr. before communion. or Holy-day before the Communion, give notice thereof in the Church, and read one of the Exhortations fitted for that purpose in the Common-Prayer-Book?
 Can. 22. Rubrick

Concl. VI. Doth your Minister diligently instruct the
 Can. 59. Youth of your Parish in the Church Catechism? And doth he prepare and present them, being so instructed, to be confirmed by the Bishop? And doth
 Rubr. after Catechism. he endeavour to reclaim all Popish Recusants (if any
 Can. 61. such be inhabiting within your Parish) to the true
 Can. 66. Religion established in the Church of England?

VII. Doth he neglect or refuse to visit the Sick, or
 Can. 67. bury the Dead, or delay the Baptism of any Infant
 68. in danger of Death? Is there any Child past Infancy, or other Person grown up through your Ministers default, yet remaining un-baptized in your
 Rubr. before Pub. Baptism. Parish? Doth he use to Baptize any without God-fathers or God-mothers.

VIII. Hath he presumed to marry any Persons in
 Can. 62, private Houses; or such as being under age have not
 63. the consent of their Parents or Guardians; or without Banns first published on three Sundays or Holy-days in the Church, unless he had a Licence so to do; or at any other hours, than between Eight and Twelve in the Morning?

IX. Doth your Minister declare to the People every Sunday at the time appointed in the Communion Book, the several Holy-days and Fasting days in the Week following? And is he an Example to others in observing them?

X. Is your Minister or Curate, a man of a studious, unblamable and exemplary Life? Or is he a frequenter of Taverns, or Ale-Houses, a common Gamester, a Swearer, Railer or Quarreller? Is he noted to be an intemperate Drinker, or vehemently suspected of Incontinency with any Person? Is his Apparel grave and decent, as the Canons of the Church require? And doth he in all his behaviour so carry himself, as that he may adorn the Gospel, whereof he is a Minister? Can. 75.
Can. 74.

T I T. IV.

Concerning the Parishioners.

I. Is there any Person in your Parish, that liveth under a Common fame, or suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Are there any common Drunkards within your Parish, or common Swearers, or Blasphemers of God's name, or any that are noted to be Railers, Unclean or Filthy Talkers; or sowers of Sedition, Faction and Discord amongst their Neighbours? Can. 109.

II. Do any of your Parish profane the Lords-day; by working in their ordinary Callings; by setting forth, and exposing to sale any Wares, Fruits, Herbs, or Goods on that day, or by Loitering, Tipling, or any other practices. Stat. 29.
Car. 2.
c. 7.
Can. 1571

III. Doth every Parishioner in your Church or Chappel, as well during Divine Service, as preaching the Word of God; behave himself with such Reverence, Decency and Attention, as the nature of such Holy Duties, and the Order of the Church doth require? Can. 18.

IV. Are there any in your Parish, that refuse to pay their duty for Easter Offerings; or refuse to contribute to the Rates made for the Repair of your Church or Chappel, or any thing thereunto belonging? Can. 85.

V. Did

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IV. Are there any in your Parish, that refuse to pay their duty for Easter Offerings; or refuse to contribute to the Rates made for the Repair of your Church or Chappel, or any thing thereunto belonging? Can. 85.

V. Did any by their last Wills or Testaments, leave any Legacy to your Church or Chappel, or to the use of the Poor, or to any other pious and charitable purposes? Which hath been mispent and imbezzelled, and by whom?

Act for
Exempt- VI. Are there any Persons living in your Parish, ing their ly neglect all publick Worship of God; neither go- Majesties ing to the Church, nor to any Assembly that meet to- Prote- gether, according to the late Act?

st intSub- VII. Have you any such Assembly of Dissenters in jects your Parish? Have they certified their place of from the meeting to the Bishop, or such others as that Act Penalty, appoints? Have their Preachers subscribed the Ar- ticles of Religion, except those excepted in the Act, and taken the Oaths, and subscribed the Declaration therein required?

Can. 112. VIII. Is there any publick Chappel in your Parish, for which your Minister hath provided no supply? Hath any such publick Chappel been lately Usurped by any sort of Dissenters?

IX. Are there any who profess to live in the Communion of the Church of England, who neglect to come to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, being of age fit to receive it?

Rubr. af- X. Doth every Householder who lives in Com- ter Ca- munion with the Church of England, cause their Chil- techism. dren and Servants to come to the Church to learn Can. 59. their Catechism, and to give an account thereof to Can. An. their Minister?

1571. XI. Are there any living in your Parish, as Man Can. 99. and Wife, who are within the Degrees prohibited?

XII. Do you know, or have you heard of any in your Parish, who having the presentation of an Ecclesiastical Living, hath made any Simoniackal compact or gain thereby; either in Money, or by reserve of any part of the Tithes, or Glebe belonging to the Benefice?

TIT. V.

Concerning Parish-Clerks, and Sextons.

I. **H**Ave you belonging to your Church or Chap- Can 91.
 pel, a Parish-Clerk, aged twenty years at
 the least? Is he of honest Life and Conversation?
 And sufficient or able to perform his Duty, in Read-
 ing, Writing and Singing? Doth he duly attend
 your Minister in all Divine Services in the Church?
 Are his Wages duly paid unto him? Or who with-
 holdeth the same from him?

II. Doth your Sexton diligently do his Duty, in
 opening and locking the Doors of the Church at due
 times; in keeping the Church clean and decent; in
 Tolling and Ringing the Bells before Divine
 Service?

TIT. VI.

Concerning Hospitals, School-masters, and Schools.

I. **W**Hat Hospital, Alms-houses, or Free-school
 hath been founded in your Parish? Are they
 so ordered in their Revenue and Use, as the Foun-
 ders appointed, and the Law of the Land allows?

II. **W**hat School-master private or publick, is there Can. 77,
 in your Parish? Is he Licensed by the Bishop? Is 78, 79.
 he of sober and honest Conversation? Doth he
 teach his Scholars the Church Catechism? And Can. An.
 doth he cause them upon Sundays and Holy-days, 1571.
 to repair orderly to the Church; and there see that
 they quietly and reverently behave themselves dur-
 ing the time of Divine Service and Sermon? And
 doth he at other times train them up with such Sen-
 tences of Holy Scriptures, as shall be most expedi-
 ent to induce them to all Godliness?

III. Do any in your Parish practice Physick, Chyrurgery or Mid-wifery, without License from the Ordinary?

T I T. VII.

Concerning Church-wardens, and Side-men.

Can. 89. I. **A**Re the Church-wardens of your Parish yearly and duly chosen by the joint consent of your Minister and Parishioners? Or one of them by your Minister, and the other by the Parishioners?

Ibid.

II. Have the former and last Church-wardens given up their Accounts to the Parish, & delivered up to the succeeding Church-wardens the money remaining in their hands; together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

III. You are further to understand; that according to your Office, you are to provide against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and good Wine, according to the number of Communicants, at the Charges of the Parish.

T I T. VIII.

Concerning the Officers in the Ecclesiastical Courts.

Can. 178 I **D**oth the Chancelloz or Commissary, substitute any person in his absence to keep Courts for him, who is not either a grave Minister, and a Graduate, or a Licensed publick Preacher, and a Beneficed man near the place where the Courts are kept; or a Batcheloz of Law, or a Master of Arts at the least?

Can. An. 1571. II. Doth the Chancelloz or Commissary (not being in Holy Orders) pronounce the Sentence of Excommunication? Or is the same pronounced only by the Bishop, or by some grave man of his appointment, which is in the Ministry?

III. Do

III. Do you know, or have you heard of any Payment, Composition or Promise, made to any Ecclesiastical Officer for conniving at any fault committed? Hath the Register received any Reward in any Cause whatsoever, in favour of any party? Or hath he been of Counsel directly or indirectly, with either of the parties in Suit? Can. 134

IV. Hath any Register, or any other Ecclesiastical Officer, or any Clerk under them, exacted, or taken extraordinary, or greater Fees, than those contained in the Table of Fees, for that purpose made? Can. 135

V. Are there two Tables containing the several rates of Fees due to each Officer; the one publicly proposed in the Consistory, the other in the Registry, that every Person whom it concerneth may without difficulty come to the view and perusal thereof? Can. 136

VI. What money hath been given for commutation of Penance? By whom? To whom? For what Offence? How hath it been employed? Can. An. 1571. 8c 1597.

VII. Is there any Proctor who doth not behave himself modestly in the Court, and is not presently silent when the Judge or Advocate speaks? Can. 133

VIII. Is there any Apparitor who executes his Office by a Deputy? Doth any Apparitor exact more or greater Fees than are prescribed? Can. An. 1597. Can. 138

Let these, and all other Abuses and Offences, which any Officer belonging to the Ecclesiastical Courts is chargable with, since the 16th Day of May, 1690. be carefully presented to the Bishop.

The Church-wardens and Side-men, are required to advise with their Ministers, concerning their Presentments; and conscionably to discharge their Office, duly considering the Obligation of their Oath, and the danger of Perjury; and that those Sins and Offences will lie at their Doors, which through their unfaithfulness in not Presenting them, remain un-reformed in their Parishes.

If any Minister thing fit to Present, let his Presentment be distinct from that of the Church-wardens.

T O M Y
B R E T H R E N
O F T H E
C L E R G Y.

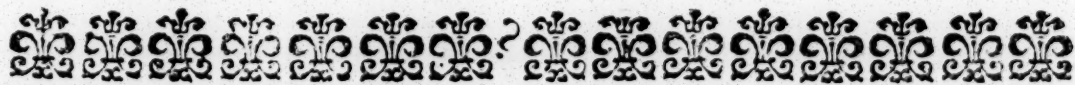
YOU are desired to prepare the Young people of your Parishes for Confirmation. And to the end it may be Administered to the greater Edification of those who shall receive it. I desire you to take notice, that I intend to Confirm none but those who are of the age of Fourteen Years at the least, and whose Names shall be delivered to me, by the Ministers of the respective Parishes from which they come, with a Certificate under their Hands that they have Examined them (unless they be Persons of Ripe age) and find them not only capable of repeating the words of the Catechism, but that they understand the meaning of that Solemn Vow, that was made in their Name at their Baptism, and declare themselves resolved, by the Grace of God, to live answerable to it.

*For the better regulating of Ordinations, I
desire you to observe.*

First, That I will admit none to Holy Orders, but such as be presented to some Ecclesiastical Preferment in this Diocess, or have some other Title specified and allowed in the 33 Canon; amongst which a Curacy under a Parson or Vicar is not to be accounted as one, unless such Parson or
Vicar

Vicar doth under his Hand and Seal, oblige himself to the Bishop, both to accept that Person *bona fide* (when he shall be Ordained and Licensed by the Bishop) to serve under him, and allow him such a Sallary as the Bishop shall approve of, so long as he shall continue to do his Duty there.

Secondly, I desire you to signifie to all such as you find desirous to enter into Holy Orders; that I expect they send to me in writing, a Month at least before Ordination-Sunday, their Names and the places of their abode, that I may order Notice to be given of their intentions at the Parish-Churches where they live; that so any who have any impediment to object, why they should not be admitted, may signifie it to me. And I expect, that they all personally repaire to me, and bring with them such Testimonial of their Behaviour for the three years last past, as the Canon requires; on Wednesday in Ember-week, or on Thursday morning at the latest; that I may have sufficient time for the strict and careful examination of every one of them; remembering those dreadful words of St. Paul, *Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other mens Sins, keep thy self pure.*



F I N I S.

